

Message Text

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ACTION L-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 SCA-01 INR-05 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5068

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4437

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO EXTRADITION: RETENTION OF ATTORNEY/TRANSLATION
OF INDICTMENT

REF: (A) STATE 223514; (B) STATE 161032; (C) STATE 180090;
(D) STATE 181396

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, JUSTICE THROUGH DEPARTMENT
CONFIRMED AND RECONFIRMED EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR EDUARDO
ORTIZ TO STUDY QUESTIONS RELATED TO POSSIBLE VESCO
EXTRADITION (REFS B, C, D.) THEREFORE EMBASSY NOTES
WITH DISMAY AND INCREDULITY THAT JUSTICE REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE
AUTHORIZATION FOR ANY EXPENSE RE STUDY OF VESCO EXTRADITION.
(REF A. PARA 1-C AND 1-D.) EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT JUSTICE IS
AWARE THAT BASED ON AUTHORIZATIONS RECEIVED BY THIS EMBASSY
(STATE 180090 OF JULY 21 AND STATE 181396 OF JULY 22) A
NUMBER OF HOURS OF EXPENSIVE LEGAL STUDY (AT \$85 PER)
HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED BY ORTIZ.

2. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT REFTEL A'S INSTRUCTION TO HAVE
ORTIZ "SHELVE VESCO STUDY" UNTIL JUSTICE'S BUDGET PROCESS
IS WORKED OUT REFERS ONLY TO WORK RELATED TO THE TRANSLATION.
EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT ORTIZ CACYCOMPLETE OTHER PHASES OF
QUESTIONNAIRE THAT DO NOT DEPEND ON THE TRANSLATION, AND THAT
REFTEL A DOES NOT ASK EMBASSY TO HAVE ORTIZ HALT ALL HIS WORK
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FORTHWITH. REQUEST CONFIRMATION.

3. FOR TIME BEING, EMBASSY WILL INFORM ORTIZ THAT AN UNBELIEVABLE USG BUREAUCRATIC SITUATION IN WASHINGTON STILL DOES NOT PERMIT EMBASSY TO GIVE HIM AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR TRANSLATION OF INDICTMENT.

4. THIS EMBASSY MUST STRESS THAT CONTINUED HESITATION, BACKING AWAY, OR BUREAUCRATIC GAME-PLAYING FOR WHATEVER REASON IS TRANSLATED IN COSTA RICA, TO THE DISMAY OF OUR FRIENDS AND EMBARRASSMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AS LACK OF REAL USG INTEREST IN THE VESCO MATTER. ORTIZ HAS ALREADY BEGAN TO WONDER, THIS EMBASSY CANNOT CHANGE THAT PERCEPTION; ONLY WASHINGTON ACTION CAN.

5. EMBASSY URGES THAT DEPARTMENT AT HIGH LEVEL PRESS JUSTICE TO AUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR TRANSLATION INTO SPANISH OF THE CURRENT INDICTMENT AGAINST ROBERT VESCO TO PERMIT OUR COSTA RICAN LAWYER TO COMPLETE THE PRELIMINARY STUDY FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN CONTRACTED BY THE USG.

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